



NEWSLETTER

ARBORETA & BOTANIC GARDENS

prepared by the public services division

May 10, 1976

PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION

Marianne Sioles is resigning her permanent tour guide position effective May 14. She will, however, continue to work on an as-needed basis to operate the multilith press. Marianne has been an excellent tour guide and we shall sorely miss her. She says she has greatly enjoyed working at the Arboretum but now feels that she needs to devote more time to her biological illustration work which is her first love. Marianne will also be taking additional classes at Cal State Northridge and plans eventually to get her M.A. in biogeography. Good luck Marianne!

PERSONNEL

ONE-TIME-ONLY PAID LEAVE IN LIEU OF PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

Effective May 14, 1976, Section 120 of the Salary Ordinance has been amended to grant paid leave to County employees in lieu of Primary Election Day, June 8, 1976.

All monthly employees on the payroll as of May 14, 1976, and new monthly employees hired prior to June 8, 1976, are eligible to receive this one-time-only special paid leave.

Each eligible employee will be credited with 8 hours paid leave time effective May 14, 1976. This paid leave day is subject to prior approval by your supervisor and be taken off at any time beginning May 14, 1976. Please submit a "Request for Time Off" form to your supervisor.

Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Joint Council, if the time is not used prior to October 1, 1977, your supervisor will schedule it off prior to January 1, 1978, and require that you take such time off.

Should you have any questions, please contact Rita Williamson, Payroll Clerk at 681-8411, ext. 19 or Nancy Lee, ext. 20.

RESEARCH DIVISION

Jack McCaskill won the Stambach Perpetual Trophy for the best California native iris seedling with one of the five seedlings he entered in the recent show presented by the Southern California Iris Society. The Stambach trophy was first awarded in 1970, and Jack has now won it five of seven times.

Thanks to the efforts of a number of people (especially Carlos Jativa, Bill Eitel, David Guerrero, and Oscar Luque), approximately 3,000 Lagerstroemia seedlings were recently transferred from the Arboretum nursery area and placed in the ground at the San Jose Creek field plot. Some of the plants are to be watered with domestic water and some with reclaimed water from the nearby San Jose Creek Water Renovation Plant. The seedlings are part of George Hanson's crape myrtle breeding program to select superior plants with improved disease resistance, flower size, and bark coloration.

SOUTH COAST DIVISION

The big move has begun. Secretary Susan Jurist was the first occupant of the administrative complex, moving in the last week in April. Next was Armand. The tour guides will move in the second week in May. The official dedication will be Friday, the 7th of May, and the opening of the Crenshaw entrance to the public on May 15th.

Along with the new building, we have a new phone system with lights, triple toggle switches and dials. The staff

and volunteers have been receiving instructions during the last couple of weeks from a representative of General Telephone. Keeping the string taut between the tin cans seems to be the hardest part to master.

April has been a good weather month with a lot of variety. We have had mostly cool days, one over 80°, and six days of much needed rain. Naturally, many plants are blooming now. *Arctotheca*, *osteospermum* and *gazania* seem like a solid carpet of color. To these the *drosanthemum* and *lampranthus* add their really dazzling colors. *Erythrina caffra* and *E. corolloides* are at their best now with their bright orange and red flowers.

Spring migration was late, but by the last weekend of this month it was in full swing. Many of our most colorful birds arrive at this season. Six warbler species, orioles, Western tanager, and a beautiful male lazulia bunting were all seen along the stream this last week.

Youth education instructor, Jeff Hook, has an unusual bird hanging around -- literally. Jeff constructed a poster board goshawk to scare away birds feeding on his vegetables which he hung from a 20-foot pole. It worked very well until a strong wind dislodged it.

Most of the voracious white crowns have left for northern nesting grounds as have all of our wild ducks.

So, on to May, this garden's biggest month with the building dedication, Fiesta de Flores, garden tour, Sunday morning department walk, and the cactus show.

DESCANSO DIVISION

April attendance at the garden was exceptionally good. Over 38,000 visitors came through the turnstiles and about 1,300 children came for guided tours given by the Descanso docents.

Recently spotted at the gardens: a crested kingfish, a flock of western bluebirds, a small group of western tanagers, and a few of the spotted towhee.

Paintings by Mrs. Alice Asmar, Mrs. Janice Lovoos, and the late Bernard Garbitt will be exhibited during the month of May in the Hospitality House.

Late April rains extended the flowering period of many plants, among them azaleas, flowering cherries, a few rhododendrons, and penstemon, monkey flower, bush poppy, and blue-eyed grass in the native plant section.